

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH  
2 February 1981

## THE INTELLIGENCE WAR CUBA'S HAND IN DRUG TRAFFIC

By ROBERT MOSS

FOR many years, the favourite method of Cuba's secret service, the DGI, for arranging operational funds for its agents in the United States and Latin America has been via the drug traffic.

In the early 1960s an alternative and imaginative method of raising cash for intelligence agents was through bolitas or lotteries, organised within the Cuban community in South Florida.

FBI investigators discovered that DGI collaborators would rig the results of lotteries in order to make payments to Castro agents. However, the turnover of the drug trade is vastly greater.

The main pipeline is from Colombia, via Cuba and Panama, to the United States. Sources in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) say that the Cuban DGI has helped to supervise a lucrative barter of arms for drugs with the Castro-supported Colombian guerrilla movements.

Panama plays a vital role as a middleman in smuggling operations and in the laundering of money; the family of the Panamanian strongman Gen. Omar Torrijos, and the country's military intelligence chief, Col. Noriega, have been accused in American Congressional hearings of being directly involved in the traffic.

Now, however, a major FBI investigation is under way into the possible laundering of drug money by a number of Miami banks whose directors are believed to have close connections with Havana.

The latest development was the indictment by a Federal Grand Jury last week of Sr Guillermo Hernandez Cartaya, a Cuban emigre banker whose financial interests extended from Panama to the Persian Gulf, and seven other former officers of his WFC Corporation, based in Coral Gables, Miami, on charges of conspiracy and tax evasion.

Sr Hernandez and his employees are charged with failing to report more than \$1 million (£410,000) in "cash bonuses" that they paid themselves over a four-year period.

The money was allegedly laundered through a Panamanian bank controlled by Sr Hernandez.

His activities first attracted the attention of Justice Department officials when it was noted that large sums of money were regularly being transferred in and out of his banks without explanation. The then chairman of a Congressional sub-committee that investigated Cuba's role in the drug trade, Congressman Lester Wolf of New York, publicly accused Sr Hernandez of conspiring with the Castro regime to smuggle cocaine into the United States.

Sr Hernandez denied the charge, and no evidence was produced at the time to justify a criminal prosecution. However, in 1978, Sr Hernandez and one of his senior aides, Salvador Aldereguia Ors, were acquitted of the charge of conspiring to use a false passport.

According to intelligence sources in Washington, Sr Aldereguia has maintained close contact with Cuban officials in Panama and the United States and was involved in the secret diplomacy between the Castro regime and members of the Carter Administration that was initiated at the end of 1977 by Sr Jose Luis Padron, a senior DGI officer who now holds the cover job of Minister of Tourism in Havana.

Sr Hernandez is an intriguing figure: a Bay of Pigs veteran who started a modest financial operation in Tallahassee with a few hundred dollars, and within a few years owned banks and corporations in Miami, Grand Cayman, San Antonio, Panama and Ecuador.

Former CIA officials recall Sr Hernandez' time in a training camp in Guatemala prior to the disastrous landing at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. They say that one of his close friends at the time attracted suspicion that he was a Castro agent because he would regularly disobey orders and slip away into town.

The man eventually fled to Mexico, and it was confirmed that he had indeed been one of the many DGI spies who

Further charges against Sr Hernandez may be pending, but many other bankers in South Florida are now also subject to scrutiny because of their possible links with the Castro regime and the drug peddlers.

The investigation is expected to take two years, using the full resources of the FBI, the DEA, and the Internal Revenue Service. One official involved comments sceptically, however: "I predict it will go nowhere since so many of the big banks are involved."

### CIA man's covert

#### action manual

MR THEODORE Shackley, a former senior CIA officer who once played a key role in running the secret war in Laos and operations against the Castro regime in Cuba, has written a book, to be published by McGraw-Hill later this year, that may be adopted as a manual for paramilitary covert action under the Reagan administration.

Mr Shackley resigned from the CIA after clashes with Adml Stansfield Turner, and has been regarded as a leading contender for a key post in the agency's Directorate of Operations under its new director Mr William Casey.

The title of his book, "The Third Option," is founded on his belief that covert action is the legitimate middle way between full-scale military confrontation and inertia in defending Western interests where they are threatened by aggression from the Soviet Union or its surrogates.

"In the 1980s," he contends, "We will see paramilitary operations become once again an integral part of America's defence arsenal."

At a moment when the new Secretary of State, Gen Alexander Haig, has publicly talked of the need to deal with Soviet-backed international terrorism and the new administration is studying intelligence reports ignored or suppressed under President Carter, a Cuban

involvement in the revolutionary violence in El Salvador, Mr Shackley's proposed guidelines for an American response are especially timely.

In a case like El Salvador, he contends, if it is determined that it is in the best interests of the United States "to prevent the beleaguered nation's collapse," the following steps should be taken:

1. Washington and the Government under attack should agree on force levels that will be supported and equipped by the United States.
2. The United States should provide an airlift capability; often under commercial cover, to move urgently-needed military supplies and medical services directly to the combat zones.
3. The Americans should provide military instructors; some of them professionals recruited from third countries. There is a small Defence Department team in El Salvador now.
4. The CIA should arrange for the selective employment of "volunteers" as combat troops and advisers. They may be professional soldiers hired on a mercenary basis from neighbouring countries.
5. The CIA should take charge of co-ordinating a sophisticated intelligence gathering and psychological warfare programme.

### Emigrés criticise

#### Radio Liberty

THE Reagan Administration is expected to support an expanded programme of radio broadcasts to countries under Marxist control, including Cuba, Angola and Afghanistan.

At the same time, the editorial content of broadcasts transmitted to the Soviet Union by the Munich-based Radio Liberty (now said to be financed by the American Congress) is likely to be subjected to close scrutiny.

Leading Russian dissident intellectuals now living in the West—notably Mr Vladimir Bukovsky and Mr Lev Navrosov—criticise the pro-